



# Global Climate Coalition

## *Statement of Purposes and Principles*

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### **WHO WE ARE**

The Global Climate Coalition ("the Coalition") is an association of business trade associations and private companies formed to coordinate the active involvement of U.S. business in the scientific and policy debates concerning global climate change issues. Coalition membership represents a broad spectrum of virtually all elements of U.S. industry including the energy producing and energy consuming sectors.

The Coalition is actively involved in the debate over global climate issues because of the concern with which its members share over the issues, and the potentially enormous impact which improper resolution of those issues may have on our industrial base, our customers and their lifestyles and the national economy. To respond effectively to those issues, while at the same time avoiding unnecessary social and economic disruptions, the Coalition advocates the following principles.

### **WHAT WE STAND FOR**

The Global Climate Coalition advocates the following principles as a reasoned approach to general climate change. First, the issues relating to global climate change are serious ones that must be addressed comprehensively and equitably by all nations. Second, science must serve as the foundation for overall global climate policy decisions and enhanced scientific research must be the first priority. Third, even if all of the scientific uncertainties were resolved, sound policy decisions must consider the economic and social impacts of alternative policy choices. Fourth, the United States can make important contributions to improving the global environment and conditions for development by encouraging technology transfer to developing nations, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Fifth, the Coalition has encouraged members of the business community and trade associations to voluntarily commit to "Guiding Principles for Business" that are consistent with good business practices and are technically feasible and economically practicable.

### **I. SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION**

A bedrock principle for addressing global climate change issues is that science -- not emotional or political reactions -- must serve as the foundation for global climate policy decisions. Policy decisions, made without benefit of adequate scientific understanding of the complex global change phenomenon, could have far-reaching and unnecessary social and economic impacts, including altered energy use and employment patterns, and perhaps fundamental lifestyle changes. Indeed, strategies that provoke serious economic, social, environmental, or political dislocations could affect worldwide development as profoundly as any potential adverse climate change.